

Message Text

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SUBJ: NARCOTICS: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT, JULY - DECEMBER 1974

REF: STATE 12151

1. DURING JULY - DECEMBER 1974 MISSION HAD FEW SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RE NARCOTIS TO REPORT, EITHER FOR PANAMA OR CANAL ZONE. FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS IN REFTEL.

2. SECTION A.

A) NONE

B) PERSONNEL. CENTRAL FUNDS OBLIGATED FOR THREE DEA AGENTS AND ONE SECRETARY FOR FY75, EXPENDED FOR TWO AGENTS JANUARY-JUNE 1974 AND THREE AGENTS, ONE SECRETARY FOR JULY-DECEMBER 1974. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (SALARY PLUS ALLOTTED) FUNDS OBLIGATED FOR 3 PERCENT AMBASSADOR'S TIME, \$1,800, 5 PERCENT DCM, \$3,100, 80 PERCENT NARC COORDINATOR, \$28,400, AND 20 PERCENT ONE SECRETARY, \$2,800 FOR FY75 AND EXPENDED IN SAME PROPORTIONS JANUARY-DECEMBER 1974. NO SECTION 482 MONIES OBLIGATED OR EXPENDED BY POST IN FY75 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1974 FOR OTHER CATEGORIES.

C) THIRTY-TWO PIECES RADIO EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES VALUED
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\$9,000 DELIVERED IN SEPTEMBER. NONE IN PIPELINE.

D) NONE

E) TRAINING. THIRTY GOP POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TRAINED BY DEA INSTRUCTORS IN-COUNTRY TWO WEEKS OCTOBER 1974. TWO GOP POLICE OFFICIALS TRAINED SIX WEEKS DEA WASHINGTON OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1974 AND TWO MORE THERE FOR SIX WEEKS JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1975.

F) THREE DEA AGENTS AND ONE SECRETARY FULLTIME, ONE STATE OFFICER MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF TIME.

3. SECTION B.

A) SUMMARY: MISSION'S ASSESSMENT REMAINS AS IN A-167. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF LAW REFORM IN AREAS RELATED TO NARCOTICS CONTINUED (A-1, A-31, 1974 AND A-96, 1973). GOP REPORTED IN JULY THAT OVER 50 PERCENT OF 443 PERSONS BEHIND BARS IN ENTIRE COUNTRY AT THAT TIME WERE HELD FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, AND THAT 148 OF THESE WERE AWAITING TRIAL (A-147). PRESS ON SEPTEMBER 18 SUGGESTED WORLDWIDE NARCOTICS PICTURE REMINISCENT OF PROHIBITION ERA AND CALLED FOR LEGALIZATION ALL DRUGS (USIS PANAMA 5509). IN CANAL ZONE, SHIPS SUSPECTED NARCOTICS TRAFFIC ARE MONITORED REGULARLY AND MISSION AND CANAL ZONE OFFICIALS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO EXPAND FILES ON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED. STUDY UNDERTAKEN AT DIRECTION OF GOVERNOR PARKER AND PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER STATED THAT ALIENATED ATTITUDES AND HIPPIE SUB-CULTURE HAD PEAKED IN ZONE, AND THAT ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE "HOT LINE" CALLS RECEIVED THERE EACH DAY DRUG RELATED (A-186).

B) ABUSE: NO NEW INFORMATION SINCE REPORT IN JULY 1974 THAT MARIJUANA REMAINS DRUG OF CHOICE, WITH PERCENTAGE STRENGTH OF COCAINE AT STREET LEVEL RATHER LOW (A-131).

C) PRODUCTION AND/OR PROCESSING OF OPIUM, COCA OR PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS IN PANAMA IS MINIMAL, IF AT ALL. SOME MARIJUANA GROWN HERE,

BUT NO INDICATIONS ANY SIGNIFIVHCNT EXPORT SURPLUS. SOME MARIJUANA PLANTINGS OBSERVED DURING JOINT INSPECTION PERLAS ISLANDS IN AUGUST, BUT NOT ENOUGH WARRANT FULL-SCALE ERADICATION EFFORTS (A-186).

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D) PANAMA REMAINS IMPORTANT TRANSIT POINT. TRAFFICKING TRENDS WERE UNCHANGED DURING REPORTING PERIOD, WITH COLOMBIA MOST COMMON POINT OF ORIGIN FOR COCAINE AND MARIJUANA SHIPMENTS. COCAINE IS ALSO SHIPPED FROM ECUADOR, PERU AND BOLIVIA. MAJOR DESTINATION FOR COCAINE CONTINUES BE UNITED STATES.

E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION: DENI DIRECTOR DARIO AROSEMENA IN SEPTEMBER REPRESENTED PANAMA AT ANNUAL INTERPOL

MEETING IN FRANCE.

F) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES: ACTIVITIES DURING
QUARTER INCLUDED:

-- ARRIVAL NEW DEA SPECIAL AGENT-IN-CHARGE/PANAMA.

-- ATTENDANCE BY NARC COORDINATOR AT ARA REGIONAL NARCOTICS
CONFERENCE MEXICO CITY.

-- PREPARATION BY USIS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY ON DRUGS FOR USE BY DEA
AND GOP OFFICIALS.

--TWO SHOWINGS USIS FILM, "DRUGS, MENACE FOR MANKING" TO 235
STUDENTS AT INTER-AMERICAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN ZONE.

-- SHOWING OF TWO OTHER FILMS ON DRUGS TO 500 OFFICERS AND MEN OF
PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD.

-- LOAN OF "DRUGS, MENACE FOR MANKIND" TO PANAMA'S ATTORNEY
GENERAL TO COMPLEMENT LECTURE GIVEN IN INTERIOR.

G) ENFORCEMENT. HEAD GOP POLICE REPORTED JANUARY 28 (A-21)
THAT IN 1974 SEVEN KILOS COCAINE AND 390 KILOS MARIJUANA SEIZED,
AS COMPARED WITH 4.75 KILOS COCAINE AND 190 KILOS MARIJUANA 1973, AND
THAT BETWEEN 600 - 800 PERSONS ANNUALLY "BECOME INVOLVED" IN
DRUG POSSESSION.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON OPERATIONAL SIDE WHICH CAN BE REPORTED
INCLUDED:

-- FBIS REPORT AUGUST 13 REPORTING DEATH OF ONE COLOMBIAN
TRAFFICKER FOLLOWING CLASH WITH PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN
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ALONG COLOMBIA BORDER (A-186).

-- EXPULSION TO U.S. IN AUGUST OF TWO ACCUSED TRAFFICKERS.
PRESS REPORTED THAT NINE OUNCES OF COCAINE HAD BEEN SEIZED AT
TIME OF THE ARRESTS (A-186).

--. COMBINED GOP/CANAL ZONE POLICE OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER WHICH
RESULTED IN ARREST OF 115 PERSONS, ALL NON-U.S. CITIZENS (A-186).

PUBLIC DESTRUCTION NOVEMBER 7 OF ALL COCAINE AND MARIJUANA
IN GOP CUSTODY AND FURTHER TIGHTENING OF RAMP CONTROLS AT
TOCUMEN AIRPORT.

H) N/A

I) SEE SUMMARY IN PARA 3 SECTION B.

4. MISSION ANTICIPATES GOP IN FY75 WILL REQUEST ONE IN-
COUNTRY CUSTOMS NARCOTICS TRAINING COURSE TOTALING MAXIMUM 300
MAN-DAYS AT ESTIMATED COST OF \$5,000 FOR PER DIEM AND TRAVEL
(PANAMA 5570).
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